

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed October 28, 1933

NOVEMBER IN TWO CONTINENTS

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Authority on Meteorology.

According to Sir Walter Scott, "November's sky is chill and drear," and Tom Hood writes:

"No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member,
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds -- No-venber."

But the facts about American November weather are not to be found in British poetry. Neither can they be found in American poetry that draws its ideas about Nature from British sources. I think it was Ernest Ingersoll who once recorded the paradoxical experience of sitting outdoors in the sparkling sunshine of a glorious November day and reading the lamentations of the poets over this theoretically lugubrious month.

Our Novembers in North America are not cheerless. In the northern United States and southern Canada the month is likely to ^{be} intermittently wintry, but it is no more dismal and uncomfortable than the two or three months following; rather less so, in fact, because the interludes in the program of wintry weather are generally dry, hazy and Indian-summery, instead of bringing thaw and rain. In the southern United States this month is a second October, but cooler and more serene than the first one.

American Novembers astonish Europeans. Prof. William Lyon Phelps was showing a Frenchman over Yale University one mid-November day and asked him: "What do you think of our November climate?" The visitor replied, "It is crazy."

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